

Project Phoenix

Purpose: Project Phoenix has a three-fold purpose. (1) To examine rotary wing aircraft effectiveness and survivability during urban operations. (2) To discover and evaluate enabling



technologies and training devices to aid the aviation fleet in training against man portable air defense (MANPAD) threats. (3) To determine the validity of Joint Terminal Air Controller (JTAC) at the infantry platoon and squad level

Background: The Lab began examining the urban environment in 1998 as part of the Urban Warrior series of experiments and has continued urban experimentation through Project Metropolis. Project Phoenix originated during Project Metropolis experimentation and was formed to examine the aviation aspect of urban operations. Project Phoenix has focused on examining the survivability of rotary wing assets against MANPAD and anti-aircraft artillery threats in the urban environment. At the same time, close-air support, casualty evacuation, re-supply, assault support, and reconnaissance operations have been examined to determine the effectiveness and ability of aircrews to perform these missions in an urban environment with various threats. In 2005 Project Phoenix was designated to assess the viability of terminal air control at the infantry platoon and squad level in support of the Distributed Operations (DO) Concept. DO is an evolving concept that seeks to develop the capability to deploy tactical units across the depth and breadth of a battle pace in order to maximize opportunities to achieve favorable intelligence driven engagements. Both air and ground delivered fires enable this capability.

Description: Project Phoenix will provide JTAC Primer training to the Platoon Commander (PC) and Platoon Sergeant (Plt Sgt) from Experiment Force (Ex For) for DO concept evaluation. Both the PC and the Plt Sgt will then attend the JTAC Course in Coronado, Ca prior to receiving the Small Unit Enhancement Training package and subsequent LOE in Ft Hunter Liggett and 29 Palms, Ca.

Deliverable Product(s): Assessment reports and recommended changes to tactics, techniques and procedures involving JTAC at the small unit level.

Milestones:

TASK	FY05	FY06
JTAC Primer/Course for ExFor PC & PltSgt	▲	
SUET/LOE I	▲▲	
JTAC Training refinement		▲▲
Dist Ops LOE 2		▲▲

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